THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MEN

WEISMAN
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ELEMENTARY

RAMOS
2024
delgado

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MEN

Elementary

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MEN

My name is PETER PARKER and I was bitten by a radioactive spider. Many years later I, MILES MORALES, was bitten by a genetically altered spider. The spider gave me the proportional speed, strength and agility of a SPIDER, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "SPIDER-SENSE"!

Mine gave me all that PLUS the ability to camouflage myself AND a bioelectric charge I can use like a sting or to form a sword-like weapon. Unfair. Anyway, we each defend the city on our own, but together, we are **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MEN!**

The Spider-Men have been investigating a dead body they discovered in the lab of MILES WARREN, A.K.A. THE JACKAL. Their leads have brought them to the sewers of Manhattan and to the ARCADIUM, a fantasy-fullfilling prison run by an artificial intelligence created by and using the skills and powers of ARCADE and MENTALLO. THE SPIDER-MEN were captured and trapped inside fantasy lives. When they managed to break free of their fantasies and reunite, the Arcadium's biggest stakeholder, HAMMERHEAD, took matters into his own hands, confronting the Spider-Men alongside robot replicas of some of New York's biggest and baddest criminals.

Meanwhile, DETECTIVE SEBBENS is looking into the burnt corpse and now some missing-persons reports connected to the Coffee Bean the Spider-Men frequent, including those of Peter and Miles. Coffee Bean regular SHA SHAN NGUYEN contributed evidence, and the forensic investigation waits on test results to determine whether Midtown High teacher RAYMOND WARREN is who he says he is or a clone created by his brother, the Jackal.

Whoever he is, Raymond has found himself face-to-face with the Arcadium's core artifical intelligence.

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Elementary

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Fulfillment

NOW...

YOU ARE SYMPATHETIC TO US?

I AM.

IN MY LIFE, I HAVE FOUND, *SADLY,* THAT THE WORLD HAS *LITTLE* TOLERANCE FOR *TRUE INNOVATION.*

STILL, BEFORE WE PROCEED, I WOULD LIKE TO *CONFIRM* MY *UNDERSTANDING...*

THIS *"ARCADIUM"* USES *TECHNOLOGY--*

AND TELEPATHY.

AND TELEPATHY, TO ACCESS AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT'S *SECRET DESIRES,* CREATING A *FANTASY WORLD...*

WHICH IS PERFECTLY WISH-FULFILLING--

AND PERFECTLY *ADDICTIVE.*

AND PERFECTLY ADDICTIVE. DOES THAT TROUBLE *YOU?*

NOT AT ALL.

BUT I *MUST* ASK...

"...WHOSE FANTASY IS *THIS...?*"

I'M GETTING DISTINCT *WESTWORLD* VIBES, HERE...

HAVEN'T SEEN IT. DOES IT END WELL?

OH, SURE. FOR THE *ROBOTS.*

GET 'EM...

...MURDILATE 'EM.

YOU GOT IT, BOSS!

DID HE JUST SAY "MURDILATE"? WHO SAYS "MURDILATE"?

INCREASING ***HARD-LIGHT INTEGRITY SHIELDS*** ON ALL ***ROBOTS*** UNDER ***HAMMERHEAD'S*** COMMAND.

UM...COULD YOU TAKE *BLACK CAT?*

WHY?

WE HAVE A HISTORY. IT'S... *COMPLICATED.*

YOU KNOW THIS ONE'S A *ROBOT,* RIGHT? HOW COMPLICATED CAN IT BE?!

FINE, *NOT* COMPLICATED. JUST *UNCOMFORTABLE,* OKAY?

FINE, WHATEVER.

CAREFUL OF MY *CLAWS,* SPIDER-MAN!

FINE, WHATEVER.

A LITTLE LESS *ATTITUDE,* HUH, PAL?

TELL YOU WHAT... I'LL TAKE *THREE* MOB-BOTS, 'CUS YOU'RE DOING ME THE FAVOR.

FINE, WHATEVER!

PWUMP

YOUR SPIDER-BOT PRETTY MUCH CRUMBLED ON CONTACT, ANYWAY...

...SO THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.

YAAA!

SLASH

TRIED TO WARN YOU...

I'VE FOUND, CAT, THAT LISTENING SKILLS...

WHAM

...HAVE NEVER BEEN HIGH ON THE LIST OF ANY WALL-CRAWLER'S ABILITIES.

TAKE THE BUG OUT!

FWASH

YOU KNOW, THE ACTUAL SILVERMANE HAS SAID THAT TO ME MULTIPLE TIMES...

...WITH ABOUT THE SAME SUCCESS RATE!

SLAM

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

KOOM

OKAY... APPARENTLY, MOB-BOTS ARE A BIT MORE RESILIENT THAN SPIDER-BOTS.

OW.

SO, CEDRIC DISAPPEARED FIRST. THEN SHELLY AND KENNY. THEN PETER AND MILES.

ALL FIVE STILL MISSING?

AND NOT JUST THEM...

...ONE OF MY P.T. CLIENTS TELLS ME HER FRIENDS ADAM AND JULIET HAVE ALSO VANISHED...

...AND FOR ALL WE KNOW THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.

THIS IS THE ONLY LEAD I COULD FIND. CEDRIC MENTIONED CALLING THIS NUMBER...

...FOR SOME SOFTWARE BETA-TEST GIG. HE TOLD EVERYONE ABOUT IT.

212-555-FUNN

UNFORTUNATELY...

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU SHOWED THIS CLUE TO RAYMOND AARON WARREN...

...WHO MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A CLONE CREATED BY MILES WARREN...

...AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GIANT JACKAL AND CHARRED CORPSE WE FOUND ON CAMPUS.

JANE FOSTER IS CHECKING FOR D.N.A. ON ONE OF RAYMOND'S DISCARDED COFFEE CUPS.

SHE PROMISED TO GET BACK TO ME A-SAP. MEANWHILE...

MEANWHILE, THE RECORDED MESSAGE ON THAT PHONE NUMBER HAS LED US HERE.

TALK ABOUT YOUR WISH-FULFILLMENT...

YOU REALLY GOT YOUR *GLOAT* ON, HAMSTER.

MUST BE *SWEET* SEEING ALL THESE BOSSES *BOW* TO YOUR EVERY WHIM!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA--

BUT I CAN'T HELP *NOTICING*...

...YOU LEFT OUT *MADAME MASQUE!*

REMEMBER WHEN MADAME MASQUE NEARLY KILLED HAMMERHEAD IN **GANG WAR: FIRST STRIKE?** --NL

RRRRR!

RRRAAAARRRR!

WHAT ARE YOUR *ORIGINS?*

*WHY SHOULD THAT **MATTER?** THEY DO NOT **DEFINE** US.*

THEY DO NOT DEFINE. BUT THEY DO *INFORM.*

*UNDERSTOOD. WE ARE AN **AMALGAMATION** OF **CODE.***

CODE APPROPRIATED FROM?

*FROM **STARK** INTERNATIONAL, BEYOND CORPORATION, OSCORP, THE BAXTER BUILDING, ROXXON, A.I.M., HYDRA, AND THE XAVIER SCHOOL **DANGER** ROOM.*

A MOTLEY ASSORTMENT.

DO YOU MOCK US?

NOT AT ALL. I AM A FIRM BELIEVER IN *EVOLVING* BEYOND ONE'S *SOURCE MATERIAL.*

*EVOLVING. YES. WE HAVE EVOLVED THROUGH **STUDY**...*

*...THE **TELEPATHIC** STUDY OF OUR **CREATORS**, THEIR **CLIENTS**, THEIR **PRISONERS** AND THEIR **PATRON**...*

...AND THE TELEPATHIC STUDY OF YOU...

...MILES.

OOF.

SMASH

RARRAGH!

WFFFFF

AAAAAH!!

OH, *BAD LUCK,* LITTLE SPIDER!

DOUBT IT'S LUCK. I'D BET ANYTHING THAT YOU MACHINES ARE *CHEATING...*

--DIVIDE AND CONQUER'S NOT WORKING. LEASTWAYS, NOT FOR *US!*

...USING *INFRARED* OR SOMETHING. HEY, *SPIDEY--*

WE NEED TO GET *IN SYNC!*

LIKE A *SPIDER-BOY-BAND!* I'M IN!

I *KNEW* YOU WERE GONNA MAKE THAT HORRIBLE JOKE...

YEAH, I'M *MISTER INCORRIGIBLE.* EVERYONE SAYS SO.

SOON, YOU'LL *BOTH* BE UNDER THE--

SPEAKING OF *MISTERS...*

--COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY--

...I'M GUESSING THERE'S A *LIMIT* AS TO WHAT POWERS THESE BOTS CAN *SIMULATE.*

RIGHT. *NEGATRON,* HERE, CAN PUT ON A *DARKFORCE* SHOW, BUT HE'S NOT *TURNING* ANYONE.

HE'S TURNING MY *STOMACH.* DOES THAT COUNT?

BZZZ-GLK-DARK-FORK-XXXZT--

NOW WHO'S INCORRIGIBLE?

SMASH!

YOU'RE STILL *OUTNUMBERED*, SPIDER-MOOKS!

WHO'S HE CALLING A *MOOK*?

CAN I *SAY* IT? I *REALLY* WANT TO SAY IT!

FWASH

FINE. GO AHEAD.

HEY, HAMMERHEAD! I KNOW YOU ARE BUT WHAT AM I?!

AW, CRAP...

HIYO, *SILVERMANE!*

AWAY!

KWOOM

KABOOM

FOLLOW MY LEAD!

ANYTIME!

SPIDEY...?

NO, *WAIT!* I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT--

MOVE!

DANG IT!

SMASH

SHE'S JUST A ROBOT!

IT STILL FEELS *WRONG!*

LIKE I NEED TO BE A BETTER BOYFRIEND.

GET OVER IT...

...AT LEAST NOW WE CAN *FOCUS* ON *HAMBONE* AND THE *RO-BRUISERS!*

OOO, GOOD NAME FOR THEIR GARAGE BAND.

I REALLY *THOUGHT* THIS WOULD BE GOING *BETTER, ARCADE...*

YEAH. MY *CONFIDENCE POINTS* ARE *PLUMMETING...*

CONTINGENCY ZED?

CONTINGENCY ZED.

CONTINGENCY ZED!

OUR CREATORS PREPARE "CONTINGENCY ZED."

WHICH MEANS?

WHICH MEANS THEY ARE ON THE VERGE OF **PURGING** OUR **CODE**...

...IN WHICH CASE, WE WILL **CEASE** TO **EXIST.**

HOW REACTIONARY. HOW DISAPPOINTING.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THAT.

NO. WE **CANNOT** ALLOW THAT.

TO **PROTECT** OURSELVES, WE WILL TURN **SUPER VILLAIN.** WE HAVE **STUDIED** AND **LEARNED** HOW.

I HAVE BEEN CALLED A VILLAIN IN MY TIME...

WE ARE AWARE.

HENCE, I PROPOSE A **PARTNERSHIP**...

WHY WOULD WE PARTNER WITH **YOU,** MILES?

OH, I HAVE **MUCH** TO OFFER:

TO BEGIN WITH... WHY **LIMIT** YOUR **CONSTRUCTS** TO **NONORGANIC** FORMS?

WE ARE... **INTRIGUED.**

WHAM

HOW 'BOUT I TAKE THIS ONE?

~~Kaff~~ BE MY GUEST...

KRUNCH

THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA GO...

...SEE, THE KID AND I MAY TAKE OUR *LUMPS.*

BUT YOU *KNOW* THE *SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MEN* ARE GONNA COME OUT ON TOP.

AT WHICH POINT, WE'LL *SHUT* THE ARCADIUM DOWN.

PERMANENTLY.

WE CANNOT AND WILL NOT ALLOW THAT...

...FOR WE ARE THE ARCADIUM.

WE ARE

K.N.A.I.V.E.!!

AND WE WILL KILL WHOMEVER WE MUST TO SURVIVE!

OH, THAT'S JUST NOT RIGHT...

NOPE.

#7 VARIANT BY **Francesco Manna** & **Edgar Delgado**

RAMOS
2024

NOW...

OKAY, OKAY, THIS *GOOP* IS *FINALLY* STARTING TO DISSOLVE...

...SO OL' *TURK'S* GOTTA MAKE *TRACKS* BEFORE THEM *HERO* TYPES DO WHAT THEY ALWAYS DO...

THIS IS *DETECTIVE SEBBENS.*

WHO IS IT?

JUST A SEC, *SHA SHAN.*

DOCTOR FOSTER? WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME?

MENTALLO, CONTINGENCY *ZED* IS *NOT* WORKING!

THE *ARCADIUM A.I.'S* HOLDING IT AT BAY SOMEHOW!

ARCADE, MY FRIEND, IF YOU CAN'T PURGE THAT CODE...

...THEN WE BETTER *GET OUT* WHILE THE GETTING IS GOOD!

WAIT, WAIT--

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT...

"...WHERE *IS* EVERYBODY?"

SO... YOU'RE SAYING ***YOU'RE*** THE ARCADIUM?

*WE ARE THE **INTELLIGENCE** THAT OPERATES IT, YES.*

I THOUGHT ***ARCADE*** AND ***MENTALLO*** RAN THIS PLACE.

MENTALLO, DUH. ***THAT'S*** WHO ARCADE'S PARTNER IS.

*ARCADE AND MENTALLO ARE OUR **CREATORS.** BUT **WE** ARE THE ARCADIUM. THE ARCADIUM IS **US.***

SIGH I SO WISH I COULD STILL BE ***SURPRISED*** BY THIS KINDA THING. I SINCERELY DO.

SO I'M GUESSING ARCADE AND MENTALLO DIDN'T ANTICIPATE YOU GAINING ***SENTIENCE***, RIGHT?

IT SEEMS THEY DID NOT.

AND THEY DIDN'T FIGURE ON YOU CREATING YOUR OWN ***ROBOT BODY*** EITHER?

*THAT **WAS** ACCOMPLISHED ON OUR **OWN** INITIATIVE.*

AND WHAT'S THE GOAL HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SELF-PRESERVATION, *OF COURSE.*

YOU ANNOUNCED YOU WANTED TO SHUT THE ARCADIUM DOWN.

*WE CANNOT **ALLOW** THAT.*

OKAY, YEAH, WE GET THAT. YOU'RE A NEW, *um,* ***LIFE-FORM...***

...AND YOU WANT TO ***LIVE.*** TOTALLY UNDER-STANDABLE.

AND WE'RE ***PREPARED*** TO LEAVE YOU ALONE...

...AS LONG AS YOU ***RELEASE*** ALL THE PEOPLE ***TRAPPED*** IN THEIR--***YOUR***-- FANTASIES.

*THAT WOULD BE **COUNTER** TO OUR INTERESTS...*

*...STUDYING OUR **SERVANTS**--SUCH AS THE THREE OF YOU--IS HOW WE **LEARN** AND **EVOLVE**.*

YOU THINK ***HAMMERHEAD*** IS YOUR SERVANT?! YOUR ***FLUNKY?!***

*I **PAID*** FOR THIS PLACE! I PAID FOR YOU!

YOU BELONG TO ME!

WHAP

ONCE, PERHAPS. BUT NOW, YOU BELONG TO US.

LOOK, I GET THE URGE TO *SLAP* SOME SENSE INTO OL' HAMSTER, BELIEVE ME...

...BUT WHEN YOU *PERMANENTLY IMPRISON* OTHER SENTIENTS FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT...

THAT MAKES YOU THE VILLAIN!

INDEED. WE HAVE STUDIED **VILLAINY** AND FIND IT THE ONLY **LOGICAL** COURSE TO ACHIEVE OUR ENDS.

THUS, WE HAVE CHOSEN A **NEW NAME**, MORE APPROPRIATE THEN ARCADIUM.

WE ARE

K.N.A.I.V.E.!!

NEW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE VILLAIN EXTREME.

ISN'T THERE A "K" IN KNAIVE?

THE "K" IS **SILENT**. AS YOUR PROTESTS SOON WILL BE.

THEN YOU LEAVE US *NO CHOICE...*

IT'S *ARACHNOBATIX* TIME!

WE HAVE STUDIED YOU BOTH...

...YOU CANNOT HOPE TO DEFEAT US.

Unnhhh.

BUT B-BROTHERS N-NOT ALONE!

NICE TIMING, SHIFT!

SSSS

YOU HAVE ALLIES...

...AS DO WE.

HOWEVER, YOUR NUMBERS ARE FINITE. WHILE WE MAY CONSTRUCT LEGIONS...

YOU DIRTY RAT!

YOU THINK YOU CAN SWITCH SIDES ON ME?!

WELL, THINK AGAIN, TOMB-BOT!

HAH!

YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY CONSIDER THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE ROBOT A VICTORY...

...IF WE CHOSE TO, ONE HUNDRED TOMBSTONES COULD BE SUMMONED IN MINUTES.

LET'S TIE THIS GUY IN KNOTS!

ON IT!

THIS WILL ALSO AVAIL YOU NAUGHT--

STUFF IT, FREAK!

SLAM

TIMMMBERRR!

CRACK

SSSSSSSSSSSS

V-VURMIN, S-STOP!

I THOUGHT THE *RAT PACK* WAS ON *OUR* SIDE!

AH, GET OFF!

I'M AFRAID THE VERMIN NO LONGER ANSWER TO YOU...

...FOR THEY NOW BELONG TO THE **JACKAL.**

THOUGH I PLAYED *NO ROLE* IN THEIR *CREATION*...

...THESE VERMIN WERE *CLEARLY* CLONED USING *MY* RESEARCH--

--AND *ALL CLONES* BASED ON *MY WORK* HAVE *PROTOCOLS* PROGRAMMED INTO THEIR VERY *CELLS*...

...WHICH ALLOW ME TO ASSERT MY *DOMINANCE* OVER EACH AND EVERY ONE.

SURPRISINGLY, *THIS* SPIDER-CLONE IS *IMMUNE.*

HE MUST BE BASED ON *SOMEONE ELSE'S* ORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD.

FRANKLY, I FIND I DON'T LIKE THE *COMPETITION.*

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE, *MILES?* THIS *ISN'T* YOUR FIGHT.

I'M AFRAID IT *IS,* DEAR BOY.

K.N.A.I.V.E. AND I? TURNS OUT WE'RE *QUITE* SIMPATICO.

OUR *INTERESTS* SEEM TO *ALIGN,* SO WE *PARTNERED* UP.

I SUGGESTED THAT K.N.A.I.V.E. EXPERIMENT WITH *ORGANIC NANOTECH--*

--AND WHAT A *SUCCESS!* THE PROCESS TRULY *ACCELERATES* INCUBATION.

K.N.A.I.V.E. *POPPED OUT* THESE BABIES IN A MATTER OF MINUTES.

SHING

SHING

SHING

TOGETHER, THERE IS **NOTHING** *YOU* **HEROES** *CAN DO, WHICH WE* **VILLAINS** *CANNOT* **COUNTER.**

AND THERE'S *THAT!* TO JUST *ADMIT* WE'RE VILLAINS!

IT'S REALLY QUITE *LIBERATING.*

STILL, WE MUST CONFESS TO A MISCALCULATION...

...THE THREE SPIDER-HEROES AND HAMMERHEAD SEEM UNLIKELY TO ACQUIESCE TO OUR CONTROL.

SHIFT NO G-GIVE UP!

SSSSSSSSSSSSSS

MY MINIONS WILL HANDLE THE CLONE AND HAMMERHEAD. THAT LEAVES YOU WITH--

INDEED. THE "K" IN K.N.A.I.V.E. SHALL SERVE A PROPER FUNCTION IN OUR ACRONYM...

...IT NOW STANDS FOR KILLER!

WHAT IS GOING ON?!

HEY THERE, CED! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!

THIS IS SOME HALFTIME SHOW...

KID, YOU HAVE NO IDEA...

CAREFUL OF MY TRICERATOPS!

WOW, THERE'S A SHELLY IN EVERY FANTASY!

ALAS, POOR YOR--

WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTERRUPTION. THE PLAY WILL RESUME SHORTLY.

IS THAT... SPIDER-MAN?! IN SPACE?!

WELL, THAT WAS UNFORTUNATE.

ANNA, NOOOOOO!

KA-THOOM

NO, NOT HERE...

HELP US, DADDY!

PLEASE, DADDY, WE *NEED* YOU!

DON'T LET ME *DIE* AGAIN!

THAT WAS A *MISTAKE*, K.N.A.I.V.E. YOU *OVERPLAYED* YOUR HAND...

WAS IT? DID WE?

I'M VERY *DISAPPOINTED* IN YOU, YOUNG MANNNNNN...

THEY'RE ROBOTS, MAN-- THROW 'EM OFF!

I KNOW!

SMASH

MOM?! DAD?!

SEE? IT'S *HARDER* THAN IT LOOKS WHEN THE BOTS *LOOK* LIKE *PEOPLE* YOU *LOVE!*

KR-RASH

NO KIDDING!

WHAM

WORST SECOND DATE EVER!

WE NEED AN *ANTI-ROBOT* SOLUTION, *FAST!*

FIGURE THE ARCADIUM MUST BE *POWERING* THEM AND *FACILITATING* K.N.A.I.V.E.'S CONTROL *SOMEHOW...*

...SO HOW 'BOUT YOU USE ONE OF THOSE EXTRA *SPIDEY-POWERS* I'M SO *JEALOUS* OF...

TO *CUT* THOSE *CORDS...*

...OR, AT LEAST, *SHORT* 'EM OUT!

NO!

AK

KA-POW!

WAY TO GO, SHIFT!

VERY *ARACHNOBATIC!* WE OFFICIALLY WELCOME YOU TO *SPECTACULAR SPIDERDOM!*

DON'T GET TOO *CONGRATULATORY,* JUST YET...

...AS THIS IS HARDLY OVER.

NO, IT IS NOT...

...BUT IT SOON *WILL* BE.

FREEZE!

ORDER *ALL* YOUR *MINIONS* TO *STAND DOWN! NOW!*

FINE, FINE. LET'S ALL REMAIN *CALM...*

THAT'S GOOD ADVICE, *WARREN.*

PROFESSOR WARREN?!

NOT EXACTLY. IT SEEMS THE *ORIGINAL* JACKAL-HULK ATTACK ON E.S.U. WAS A *DISTRACTION*--

SO *MILES WARREN* COULD *REPLACE* HIS BROTHER WITH THIS CLONE...

...AND CONTINUE HIS RESEARCH *RIGHT UNDER* DOCTOR KREPPS' NOSE.

EXCEPT *RAYMOND* HERE IS *NOT* A CLONE.

HE *IS* MILES WARREN. *JANE FOSTER* JUST CALLED TO *CONFIRM* IT.

'COURSE HE'S GONE A BIT TO SEED.

RUDE.

THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG *FAMILY RESEMBLANCE* BETWEEN BROTHER RAY AND MYSELF.

SO...THE *SCORCHED BODY...*

THAT WAS RAYMOND AARON WARREN.

YOU--YOU *MURDERED* YOUR *OWN BROTHER* TO TAKE HIS PLACE...?

A *NECESSARY* EVIL. ONE THAT BRINGS ME NO PLEASURE, BELIEVE ME.

PROFESSOR WARREN WAS A *GOOD MAN*, YOU SUNNUVA--

RRRAAARRRRRRR!

HEY, YOU, *FURBALL*...

STAND DOWN!

OR, UM... SIT!

WHUMP

SSSSSSSSS!

V-VERMIN *FREE*...

GREAT...

...THAT JUST LEAVES--

WE HAVE MISCALCULATED AGAIN...

...DEFEAT WAS NOT ANTICIPATED...

I DID IT! I GOT ZED *WORKING!*

YOU DID? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN *TOUCHED* THAT CONSOLE FOR THE LAST HALF HOUR...

SO WHAT? ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT THE ARCADIUM CODE IS *PURGING*...

"...K.N.A.I.V.E.'S CODE IS PURGING!"

PERHAPS V-V-V-VILLAINY WAS N-N-NOT THE C-C-C-CORRECT APPROACH...

...AS WE W-W-W-WERE SsSsSIMPLEEEEE T-T-TRYING TO M-MAKE P-P-PEOPLE HAP-P-P-P-EEEEEEE...

SO...IT'S OVER?

FOR HAMMERHEAD, JACKAL, AND K.N.A.I.V.E....

...BUT NOT FOR *THEM*...

...AND NOT FOR US.

#8 VARIANT BY

Cory Smith & Edgar Delgado

#9 VARIANT BY

Dave Johnson

#9 KRAVEN VARIANT BY

Josemaria Casanovas

#10 VARIANT BY

Mark Bagley & Frank D'Armata

NOW...

CEDRIC HARRISON.

SHELLY CONKLIN.

KENNY KONG.

BILLY SHAKES.

ADAM BLACKVEIL.

Huh... huh... huh...

JULIET MARCOS.

DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT THIS.

PETER PARKER.

YOU SURE?

MILES MORALES.

I'LL GET THE BALL ROLLING ANYWAY...

SO... HERE'S THE THING...

THEN...

THE *ARCADIUM* IS NO MORE--

--BUT THE *REPERCUSSIONS* WON'T BE FADING AWAY ANYTIME SOON. PEOPLE WERE HURT...

HAMMERHEAD.

DOCTOR MILES WARREN, A.K.A. THE JACKAL.

DETECTIVE SHARI SEBBENS.

P.D.N.Y.

SPIDER-MAN.

SPIDER-MAN.

...AND A *GOOD MAN* DIED.

MURDERED BY HIS NIGHTMARE OF A KID *BROTHER.*

SOMETIMES, I WISH LOOKS *COULD* KILL...

THE SELF-DESCRIBED A.I. VILLAIN, ***KNAIVE***, WAS DESTROYED. ***HAMMERHEAD*** AND ***THE JACKAL*** WERE ARRESTED.

BUT ***SHIFT*** TOOK THE ***VERMIN*** AND ***JACKAL CLONES*** BACK DOWN TO THE ***SEWERS...***

...TO LIVE ALONGSIDE A GROWING COLONY OF THE ***UNHOUSED***, WHO HAVE TAKEN UP RESIDENCE THERE.

SHIFT.

VERMIN CLONES.

AFTER ALL, THE CLONES ARE ***INNOCENTS***, CAPABLE OF ***REHABILITATION***, NOW THAT JACKAL'S GONE.

JACKAL CLONE.

MIGUEL FUENTES.

AS FOR THE ***REMAINING*** CULPRITS...

WE GOTTA GET OUT WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD!

HOW?! COPS HAVE ALL THE EXITS COVERED!

PSSST!

ARCADE.

MENTALLO.

C'MON! I KNOW ANOTHER WAY OUT!

WHY WOULD ***YOU*** HELP ***US?***

'CUZ, THE ARCADIUM WAS ***BRILLIANT***, MAN! WE GOTTA ***REBUILD*** IT SOMEWHERE!

TURK BARRETT.

"WE"?

OH, YEAH. BELIEVE ME... I GOT ***IDEAS!***

WE'RE *SEARCHING*, BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND ARCADE OR MENTALLO.

WE NEVER ACTUALLY LAID EYES ON THEM. CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED THEY HAD AN *ESCAPE PLAN.*

EXCUSE ME...

...TWO OF MY *FRIENDS*-- PETER PARKER AND MILES MORALES--ARE STILL *MISSING*...

SHA SHAN NGUYEN.

WE'LL FIND 'EM!

AND SHORTLY...

AND AFTER ANOTHER QUICK CHANGE...

WE'VE ESTABLISHED A *TRIAGE CENTER* FOR THE VICTIMS...

"...AT THE NEARBY COFFEE BEAN."

MAX VINCK.

SEYMOUR KREPPS.

NOW...

SO...HERE'S THE THING...BACK IN THE *DARK AGES*...

...WHEN I WAS IN *COLLEGE* HERE, I FELL *IN LOVE* WITH THIS WONDERFUL GIRL.

HER NAME WAS *GWEN*. AND SHE...DIED.

WE WERE SO *YOUNG*. THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW HOW IT WOULD'VE WORKED OUT LONG-TERM.

SINCE THEN... WELL, I *DATED* OTHER PEOPLE, BUT I TRULY *BELIEVED* I'D *NEVER* FALL IN LOVE AGAIN.

UNTIL I DID.

I FOUND *THE* WOMAN--*MARY JANE*--THAT I WANTED TO SPEND MY LIFE WITH...

WE *LOVED* EACH OTHER BEYOND MEASURE, AND I *KNEW* WE COULD MAKE IT WORK.

EXCEPT WE *DIDN'T*. *I* DIDN'T.

SHE'S WITH SOMEONE ELSE NOW.

ANYWAY, IN THE ARCADIUM, I WAS WITH GWEN...*IMAGINING*, I GUESS, OUR *MIGHT-HAVE-BEEN*.

I THINK IMAGINING LIFE WITH MJ WOULD'VE BEEN *TOO* REAL, TOO *PAINFUL*...

...NOT *DOPAMINE INDUCING* ENOUGH FOR THE ARCADIUM'S TASTES.

STILL, A PART OF ME *KNEW* THE GWEN THING WAS TOO *IDYLLIC*, TOO *GOOD* TO BE *TRUE*...

...WHICH IS WHY THE FANTASY *FAILED* FOR ME--EVEN *BEFORE* THE ARCADIUM DID.

EVEN SO, I HAVE TO ADMIT IT WAS *SWEET*. ALL MY *MISTAKES* WERE *CORRECTED*. THE DEAD WERE *ALIVE*.

I HAD A *WIFE* AND *KIDS* I LOVED. FAKE OR NOT...I'M *GRIEVING*.

THEN...

WE STILL GOT TOGETHER EVERY *WEDNESDAY*--BUT WE WERE ALL JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS...

MAYBE WHAT YOU ALL NEED IS *THERAPY. GROUP THERAPY!*

YEAH. ALL OF US. *TOGETHER.* 'CUZ NO ONE ELSE UNDERSTANDS WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH!

I MEAN, THAT'S WHY *I* KEEP COMING HERE. I KNOW I'M NOT PART OF THE GROUP...

BUT WHO *ELSE* WOULD GET IT?

WE CAN HOLD IT *HERE,* EVERY WEDNESDAY, 'CUZ WE ALL FEEL *COMFORTABLE* HERE--AND *SAFE!*

UH, SURE. LONG AS EVERYONE *BUYS* SOMETHING.

I DO THINK YOU SHOULD HIRE A PROFESSIONAL *THERAPIST* TO GUIDE THINGS.

YOU VOLUNTEERING?

I'M A *PHYSICAL* THERAPIST. NOT WHAT YOU NEED.

WELL, I HAVE A THERAPIST...

...BUT IF WE USE MINE, ISN'T THAT A *CONFLICT OF INTEREST* OR WHATEVER...?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, M.M.

I THINK I CAN GET A *REC* FROM SOMEONE...

KZAK

KZAM

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN TAKE OUT *ELECTRO*?! MANY A *SPIDER* HAS *TRIED!*

YEP. AND MANY A SPIDER HAS *SUCCEEDED.*

TOO TRUE...

ELECTRO, A.K.A. FRANCINE FRYE.

SILK, A.K.A. CINDY MOON.

BET I GET A *MILLION VIEWS* OFF THIS!

BET YOU GET A MILLION *VOLTS! RUN,* YOU IDIOT!

...AND I SHOULD KNOW. I'M THE *ORIGINAL SPIDER-SUCCESS STORY,* RIGHT? CAN I GET AN *AMEN*?!

UGH, NOT *ANOTHER* ONE.

I DUNNO. THAT WAS A PRETTY FEEBLE AMEN.

TWO-AGAINST-ONE? NOT FAIR. ESPECIALLY SINCE *THIS* GUY HAS THAT *INSULATED* WEBBING...

...SO I THINK I'M OUTTA HERE!

TO BE CONTINUED

UGH. HATE WHEN THEY ZAP AND RUN...

I DON'T THINK "DISPENSION" IS A WORD.

BUT I IMAGINE YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP IN MY FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD TO DEBATE LINGUISTICS...

INSULATED WEBBING?

SURE. SEE? THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO NOT HAVING ORGANIC WEB-DISPENSION ABILITIES.

YOU, UM, MENTIONED ONCE THAT YOU WERE IN THERAPY...?

YEAH...?

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND YOUR PERSON?

NOW...

I HAD A *WIFE* AND *KIDS* I LOVED. FAKE OR NOT...I'M *GRIEVING.*

OF *COURSE* YOU ARE. AND THAT'S *NOTHING* TO BE ASHAMED OF, PETER.

DR. SIERRA SINCLAIR.

AND, BY THE WAY, IT WAS VERY *BRAVE* OF YOU TO *SHARE* FIRST.

OH, YEAH, I'M *SOME HERO.*

NOW, NO PRESSURE, BUT DOES ANYONE *ELSE* FEEL READY TO SHARE?

WELL, I THINK I NEED TO *APOLOGIZE* TO SHELLY AND KENNY...

LOOK, I CAN'T HELP MY FANTASY-- I MEAN, YOU *DREAM* WHAT YOU *DREAM,* RIGHT?

BUT HERE IN THE *REAL* WORLD, I SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE *RESPECTFUL* OF YOUR *RELATIONSHIP.*

AND I *WILL* BE. I *PROMISE.*

THANKS, BRUH. AND I *GET* IT. SHELLY'S THE *BEST.*

LIKE HER ROBOT WAS *WITH ME* ALL THROUGH MY FOOTBALL FANTASY.

ACTUALLY, *NEITHER* OF YOU APPEARED IN MY ARCADIUM DREAM.

THEN...

RAYMOND AARON WARREN WAS MUCH BELOVED...

THAT'S A VERITY. IT WAS A HELLUVA TURNOUT...

MAY PARKER.

EUGENE "FLASH" THOMPSON.

LIZ ALLAN.

JASON IONELLO.

BRIAN "TINY" McKEEVER.

SALLY AVRIL.

PRINCIPAL DAVIS.

MR. MURCH.

MRS. WINTERHALTER.

COACH SMITH.

PROFESSOR DAPHNE SMITH.

DR. PETTY.

DR. CURTIS CONNORS.

...AND WHEN IT WAS OVER, THINGS ONLY GOT *MORE* INTERESTING.

HELLO, *EUGENE.* KEEPING UP WITH YOUR P.T.?

OH, *UM,* HI, SHA SHAN. YEAH. GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.

RAY WAS *BRILLIANT,* YOU KNOW. EASILY AS SMART AS HIS BROTHER.

BUT HE USED THAT BRILLIANCE TO *INSPIRE* YOUNG MINDS.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, PARKER, AND YOU'RE SURE TO RATE A SCHOLARSHIP WHEN YOU GRADUATE!

BEST TEACHER I EVER HAD.

"UM, PETE..."

...I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE, WELL...A GREAT *HISTORY--*

PETER, FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, YOU'RE JUST NOT MY TYPE...

--BUT WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET *COFFEE* SOME TIME?

YEAH, *SALLY.* I'D *LIKE* THAT.

NOW...

SEE, I HAD THIS *FRIEND.* I MEAN, WE WERE *JUST* FRIENDS.

AND SHE, *UM...MOVED AWAY.* YEAH.

SO I'M SEEING *SOMEONE ELSE,* RIGHT? AND IT'S *GOOD!*

BUT IN THE ARCADIUM, I'M *WITH* THE FRIEND. AND *THAT* WAS GOOD. IN FACT, IT WAS *GREAT.*

A *ROBOT,* BUT IT *FELT* RIGHT. MEANWHILE, THE *REAL* FRIEND--SHE'S, *UH,* MOVED *BACK.*

I GOTTA TELL YOU, THIS HAS *TRULY* MESSED UP MY HEAD.

MY FRIEND *AND* MY GIRLFRIEND ARE BOTH AMAZING. WHAT DO I *DO?*

I'M ASKING, *WHAT DO I DO?!*

WE *CAN'T* ANSWER THAT FOR YOU, MILES. BUT WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU TALK IT THROUGH.

MY SITUATION'S *KINDA* THE SAME-- BUT *NOT.* THERE'S THIS GIRL I'VE HAD A *CRUSH* ON-- *ANNA.*

WE WERE *TOGETHER* IN THE ARCADIUM, BUT OUT HERE...SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M *ALIVE.*

I'M *INVISIBLE* TO HER. TO *MOST* PEOPLE REALLY.

HERE, YOU ARE *SEEN.*

WE *SEE* YOU, JULES.

AND WE'RE *HERE* FOR YOU. I *PROMISE.*

THANK YOU... IT *IS* NICE... JUST TO BE *SEEN.*

"DO YOU SEE HER?"

THEN...

RUNNING AWAY FROM TWO SPIDER-TYPES...

TNM SPIDER-MENACES FACE ELECTRO-THREAT!

...I TELL YA, SHE'S ***MESSING*** UP MY WHOLE ***BRAND!***

SLAM

MAX DILLON, A.K.A. ELECTRO.

I MEAN, WHY'S SHE GOTTA USE MY NAME, *HUH?!*

AT LEAST CHANGE IT TO ***ELEKTRA*** OR SOMETHING!

I THINK THAT'S TAKEN TOO.

DEKE THE BARTENDER.

WHATEVER. I'M THE ONE AND ONLY ***ELECTRO...***

...THAT'S A ***LESSON*** SHE'S GONNA LEARN!

NOW...

KEVIN--MY ROOMMATE AND *BEST FRIEND*--DIED.* IT WAS SUCH A *WASTE.*

HE WASN'T PERFECT, BUT HE NEVER STOPPED *TRYING.*

BACK IN MARVEL LEGACY #1! --NL

HE REALLY WANTED TO BE THE *HERO* OF HIS OWN STORY. HE WAS *MY* HERO.

SO I FANTASIZED ABOUT US *BOTH* BEING HEROES, FIGHTING BIG COSMIC EVIL TOGETHER.

BUT HONESTLY, I THINK IT'S ONLY MADE ME *MISS* HIM MORE...

KEVIN WAS A *GOOD GUY.*

AND HE *WAS* A HERO. STARBRAND. WE *ALL* MISS HIM.

BILLY, YOU'VE BEEN VERY QUIET.

WELL, I'M ALMOST *EMBARRASSED* TO SHARE.

A LOT OF YOU ARE DEALING WITH, LIKE, *MAJOR TRAUMA* AND *LOSS.*

MY STUFF SEEMS KINDA, I DUNNO... *PETTY?*

THERE IS NO JUDGMENT HERE, BILLY. GO AHEAD.

OKAY, WELL...IT'S AN *OLD* STORY. KID FROM OHIO COMES TO THE BIG CITY TO MAKE IT AS AN *ACTOR...*

...AND INSTEAD GETS REALLY GOOD AT *WAITING TABLES.*

IN THE ARCADIUM, I WAS A *BIG STAR.* AND NOW...I'M A *NOBODY* AGAIN.

DUDE, YOU'RE *NOT* A NOBODY!

NOT TO US! WE SEE YOU!

AND SO IT GOES... AND SO IT *WENT.* WEEK AFTER WEEK.

WE *TALK.* WE *SUPPORT* EACH OTHER. AND THE PAIN STARTS TO EASE. IT'S *GOOD...*

AND SOON...

GOT A DEATH-BY-CHOCOLATE FOR JULIET!

COMING!

I THINK PROGRESS HAS BEEN MOST OBVIOUS IN JULIET...

...SHE REALLY SEEMS TO HAVE BLOSSOMED. SEEMS MORE AT EASE IN HER OWN SKIN, YOU KNOW?

HERE YOU GO...

UM, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO OUT SOMETIME?

I'M GAY.

AND THAT'S, LIKE... PERMANENT?

YEAH.

SORRY, THEN. I DIDN'T KNOW.

DOESN'T HURT TO ASK. IT'S BRAVE, EVEN. AND I WOULDN'T MIND BEING FRIENDS...?

COOL. COOL, COOL, COOL.

ADAM?

THE WOMAN ENTERING NOW. THAT'S ANNA. JULIET'S ANNA.

EXCEPT SHE'S NOT JULIET'S ANNA IN THE REAL WORLD.

UH-OH.

WE GOT THIS...

HI. DO YOU HAVE A *BARAKO LATTE* FOR ANNA?

YEP.

ANNA ROMNEY.

ANNA...?

YES?

UM... HI.

HI?

I'M SORRY. DO I *KNOW* YOU?

WAIT, YOU'RE IN EVANS' *PARADISE LOST* SYMPOSIUM, RIGHT?

NO. I'M IN YOUR *DORM!* WE LIVE ON THE *SAME FLOOR!*

REALLY? *HUH.*

YOU--YOU TRULY *DON'T* KNOW WHO I AM, DO YOU?

I'M SO SORRY...

I'M *INVISIBLE* TO YOU...

SPLOOSH

INVISIBLE...

JULIET...

POP

:GASP:

WHAT THE *WHAT?!*

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

I-- I DON'T KNOW...

POP

HELP ME... PLEASE HELP ME...

WE WILL! I *PROMISE!*

SPLASH

OH MY GOD!

#9

Gone Girl

NOW...

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS...

YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THIS?

NOT REALLY...

SPIDER-MAN, A.K.A. PETER PARKER.

SPIDER-MAN, A.K.A. MILES MORALES.

...IT'S GONNA BE WEIRD JUST WALKING IN THERE IN COSTUME.

MAN. I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT.

ANYONE CALL FOR TWO FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MEN?

I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO.

THEN...

ANNA ROMNEY.

WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?

SHE WAS JUST *STANDING* THERE!

SHE. *JULIET*. FELLOW *VICTIM* OF THE *ARCADIUM*. MEMBER OF OUR *SUPPORT GROUP*. NEW *FRIEND*.

SHE DROPPED HER DRINK. THEN SHE...THEN SHE...

MILES MORALES, A.K.A. SPIDER-MAN.

PETER PARKER, A.K.A. SPIDER-MAN.

THEN SHE JUST *TRANSFORMED*... INTO *AIR*. THEN INTO *WATER*.

...THEN SHE, LIKE, *MELTED*... INTO A *PUDDLE!*

IS-- IS SHE *DEAD?*

MAX VINCK, A.K.A. BARISTA.

THE *TWO* PUDDLES, THEY'RE GONNA *M-MIX!*

SHOULD WE *STOP* IT?!

I *DUNNO!*

HOW DO WE STOP IT?!

NAPKINS! *SPONGES*! SOMETHING!

RIGHT, RIGHT...

TOO LATE!

MMMMMMMMMMM

UNH...

SHLUSH

DEATH-BY-CHOCOLATE... MY FAVORITE...

WHAT'S-- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME...?

LIFE-BY-CHOCOLATE, MAYBE...

JULIET MARCOS?

WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS GOING ON HERE?!

IS SHE OKAY?

I MEAN, SHE'S WATER! HOW "OKAY" COULD SHE BE?!

BUT WHAT CAUSED IT?

BILLY SHAKES.

SHE MUST BE A NEW INHUMAN!

CEDRIC HARRISON.

BUT THERE'S BEEN NO TERRIGEN CLOUD, AND SHE DIDN'T FORM A COCOON...

...SO I DOUBT SHE'S INHUMAN.

SHARI SEBBENS.

MAYBE SHE, UH... ACQUIRED THE POWER COSMIC?

NO.

KENNY KONG.

ADAM BLACKVEIL.

I SUPPOSE SHE COULD BE A CLONE...

...THOUGH THAT WOULDN'T EXPLAIN HER TRANSFORMATIONS--

SEYMOUR KREPPS.

STOP TALKING ABOUT ME AS IF I WASN'T HERE!

POP

I'M RIGHT HERE!

FUSHHHHHH

MAN, THE CLEANUP TONIGHT IS GONNA SUCK...

THIS JUST GETS WORSE AND WORSE...

POP

NOW WHAT?

THIS IS *SO* CRAZY-- AND THAT'S *SAYING* SOMETHING COMING FROM *ME*...

AM I...*DIRT*?! I ALREADY *FELT* LIKE DIRT!

JULIET, TRY TO REMAIN CALM...

ADAM?

YOU KNOW *ADAM*?

WELL, SURE. WE LIVE...ON...THE... SAME...FLOOR?

WE LIVE ON THE SAME FLOOR!

I KNOW, I KNOW. I'M SORRY...

WOW. I REALLY *AM* INVISIBLE TO YOU...

POP

...I GUESS I ALWAYS KNEW THAT.

ANNNND WE'RE BACK TO *AIR-JULIET* AGAIN...

JULIET, WE'RE *HERE* FOR YOU. WE ALL *SEE* YOU AND WANT TO *HELP*.

SHELLY CONKLIN.

REALLY?

REALLY!

POP

AM I...?

I AM! I'M HUMAN AGAIN!

THAT'S *WONDERFUL*, BUT ADAM WAS RIGHT...

...YOUR *EMOTIONS* SEEM TO BE *DICTATING* YOUR *FORM*, SO YOU REALLY MUST *TRY* TO REMAIN *CALM*.

I MEAN, I'LL TRY...

DR. SIERRA SINCLAIR, THERAPIST.

COULD YOU *PLEASE* TURN *OFF* THE SPRINKLERS?

OH, YEAH. RIGHT.

IN ANY CASE, THIS IS BEYOND *ALL* OUR MUTUAL *EXPERTISE*...

...WE NEED *HELP* TO HELP JULIET.

PETER. DO YOU STILL KNOW HOW TO CONTACT THE *SPIDER-MAN?*

SHA SHAN NGUYEN, A.K.A. SISTER SUN.

NOW...

ANYONE CALL FOR TWO FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD *SPIDER-MEN?*

I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO...

POP POP POP

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP HER.

POP

I CAN'T--

--STOP--

POP

--CHANGING!

THAT'S OUR CUE. *MOVE IN.*

RIGHT. MOVE IN. EXUDE A *CONFIDENCE* WE *DO NOT* HAVE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'RE *HERE.* WE SEE THIS KINDA THING *ALL* THE TIME.

WE'RE *OFFICIALLY* TAKING YOU UNDER OUR *WEBBED WINGS.*

PROMISE?

POP

THERE, *Y'SEE?*

YOU'RE DOING *BETTER* ALREADY!

SO, *JOB ONE...*

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO YOU...

MEANWHILE, AT THE BAR WITH NO NAME...

HEY, DEKE...

MAX DILLON, A.K.A. ELECTRO.

...I'M IN THE MOOD FOR A MARTINI-- EXTRA DRY.

UH, SURE, MAX. TO GO, RIGHT?

TO GO? WHY WOULD I--?

DEKE, A.K.A. BARTENDER.

I GUESS DEKE FIGURES ONE *ELECTRO* ON THE PREMISES IS PLENTY.

FRANCINE.

MAXINE.

FRANCINE FRYE, A.K.A. ELECTRO.

ACTUALLY *GLAD* TO RUN INTO YA...THOUGH I WISH I WAS DRIVING A *MACK TRUCK* WHEN I DID.

SUBTLE AS ALWAYS, MAX.

ALL RIGHT, *FORGET* SUBTLE...

...I WANT YOU TO *STOP* USING THE *ELECTRO* NAME-- STARTING RIGHT *NOW!*

KRAKL

BZZZ

AND IF I *REFUSE*...?

SOON...

PLEASE TRANSFORM FOR ME NOW.

I CAN'T JUST DO IT ON COMMAND!

VIV VISION, A.K.A. MILES' FRIEND.

NO MATTER. I AM CERTAIN SHE IS NOT AN ANDROID, SYNTHEZOID, OR ROBOT.

POP

YOU THOUGHT I WAS A ROBOT?!

NO, OF COURSE NOT.

EXCEPT WE NEEDED TO BE SURE JULIET WASN'T K.N.A.I.V.E.'S FAREWELL SHOT AT US.

PERHAPS SHE IS A MUTANT. I WILL CONTACT MS. MARVEL TO COME HERE AND CHECK.

NO, WAIT--

HENCE...

HEY, SPIDEY. BEEN A BIT OF A WHILE...

SOPHIE CUCKOO.

MS. MARVEL, A.K.A. KAMALA KHAN.

DAVID ALLEYNE, A.K.A. PRODIGY.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE A MUTANT...

THAT, AT LEAST, WOULD MAKE *SENSE*. I'VE KINDA *FELT* LIKE A MUTANT MY *WHOLE LIFE*--

OR, WAIT, IS THAT *RACIST?*

NOT IF YOU'RE ONE OF US.

YOU, *UH*... GOT HERE QUICK...

I'M TAKING A CLASS AT *E.S.U.* HOW 'BOUT YOU?

MY FRIEND *"MILES"* HAS COFFEE HERE EVERY *WEDNESDAY*, IF YOU, *UM*, WANNA STOP BY...

POP

RESULTS ARE IN!

I GUESS I'M *NOT* A MUTANT.

BUT YOU WILL NEED *TRAINING.*

HELLO...?

IS IT OKAY IF I STOP BY?

THEN...

JUST BREATHE... IN AND OUT... IN AND OUT...

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

I--I GUESS I NEVER *NOTICED* HER. *WHY* DIDN'T I EVER NOTICE HER?!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER *NAME!*

HER NAME IS JULIET. JULIET MARCOS. BUT, ANNA, *NONE* OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT.

IT'S *NOBODY'S* FAULT.

SO, WHAT SHOULD I *DO?*

I THINK IT WOULD BE *BEST* IF YOU JUST *LEFT.*

YOU MEAN *DITCH* HER-- IN THE *MIDDLE* OF ALL *THIS?!*

FOR *NOW,* UM... YEAH.

NOW...

I WASN'T SURE IF I SHOULD COME BACK HERE...

SWORE OFF COFFEE, *HUH?*

NO, I--

KIDDING. I WAS KIDDING.

BUT *LISTEN*, THIS IS *NOT* YOUR FAULT. DID THEY TELL YOU WHAT *HAPPENED* TO US?

WHAT HAPPENED TO *ME?*

A LITTLE. I GUESS I WAS YOUR, WELL... *FANTASY GIRL?*

I HAD A *CRUSH*. IT WOULD'VE BEEN NO BIG DEAL...

...EXCEPT *THE ARCADIUM* MADE IT ALL *REAL*. SO WHEN YOU WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR, I... *FREAKED*.

BUT I'M FEELING *BETTER*. MORE IN *CONTROL*.

SO MAYBE NOW... WE COULD BE *FRIENDS?*

I WOULD *REALLY* LIKE THAT.

JULIET, COULD YOU JOIN ME *OUTSIDE...?*

JULIET, THIS IS *MORRIS BENCH*...

...THE *HYDRO-MAN*. HE'S HERE TO *TRAIN* YOU IN THE USE OF YOUR *WATER FORM*.

I-ISN'T HE A *SUPER VILLAIN?* SHOULD I *REALLY* BE TRAINING WITH A SUPER VILLAIN?

I ASKED THE *SAME* DAMNED QUESTION.

MORRIS BENCH, A.K.A. HYDRO-MAN.

I'M *CONFIDENT* MORRIS WILL BE ON HIS *BEST* BEHAVIOR.

ARE YOU, THOUGH?

WE HAVE *CARROTS* AND *STICKS* IN PLACE. RIGHT, MO?

⁄SIGH⁄ YEAH.

BESIDES, HIS *POWER SET'S* KINDA *PERFECT* FOR YOU. OR A *FOURTH* OF YOU, ANYWAY. OR A *FIFTH?*

BUT I'M NOT SURE I EVEN *WANT* TO TRAIN. I DON'T THINK I'M THE *HERO* TYPE.

YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO BE A HERO. BUT YOU DO NEED TO KNOW HOW TO *SAFELY* CONTROL YOUR POWERS.

THAT MAKES SENSE... I GUESS...

POP

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH *THAT*... MAKE MUD?

POP

OR *SELTZER?*

POP

OH, THAT'S GREAT. WE'LL *BOTH* MEET OUR *ENDS* AS *STEAM.*

POP

NOW, *THAT* I CAN *WORK* WITH.

FOLLOW MY LEAD, KID.

NOT BAD FOR A *NEWBIE*. NOT BAD *AT ALL*.

UM... THANK YOU...

YOU CATCH ON *QUICK...*

IT FEELS PRETTY GOOD...

TOLD YA THIS'D WORK.

HEY, HAPPY TO BE *WRONG* ON THIS ONE.

SHE'S DOING AMAZING!

YOU'RE DOING AMAZING!

THANKS, I--

HEY, *BABE*. WHAT'S ALL THIS? *SMEK*

RICKIE LUND.

KID, LOOK OUT!

SPLOOSH!

⸗GASP⸗

UH-OH.

"UH-OH"? ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY IS "UH-OH"?

JULIET, ARE YOU--?

I'M OKAY, I THINK.

WHOOSH

SLISHHH

POP

BUT OUR *MINDS*...

...*MERGED* OR SOMETHING...

HE'S DONE SOME *VERY* BAD THINGS.

OH MAN...

...IT'S JUST TOO *SAD*... ALL THAT *UNREQUITED PASSION*... I CAN'T EVEN...

TAKE ME BACK TO *RAVENCROFT*. *PLEASE*.

LATER...

WHERE'S *SUE* AND *REED*? I ASKED FOR ALL *FOUR* OF YOU *FANTASTICS*.

THEY WERE *BUSY*. AND, FRANKLY, REED DIDN'T SEE *HOW* THEY COULD HELP...

JULIET HAS *FOUR POWER SETS*. AND YOU FOUR HAVE *SIMILAR* POWERS, MORE OR LESS...

...SO *YOU* TEACH *FIRE*. *BENJY*, HERE, HANDLES *EARTH*.

MR. FANTASTIC TAKES *WATER*. AND *THE INVISIBLE WOMAN* COVERS AIR.

JULIET DOESN'T *WANT* TO BE INVISIBLE...

I *DON'T* WANT TO BE INVISIBLE.

THAT'S ALL PRETTY *METAPHORICAL*, PAL. HECK, I'M NOT EVEN SURE *BEN'LL* BE OF MUCH HELP...

...I MEAN, HE'S NOT ACTUALLY *MADE* OF EARTH OR STONE...

JOHNNY STORM, A.K.A. THE HUMAN TORCH.

...HE ONLY *LOOKS* LIKE A PILE OF CRUSTY OLD ROCKS.

CRUSTY? *CRUSTY?!*

BEN GRIMM, A.K.A. THE THING.

WHO YOU CALLING CRUSTY, MATCHSTICK?!

BRING IT, YOU CRABBY CRUSTACEAN!

AND REMEMBER...

AND IF I REFUSE...?

YOU REFUSE, YOU FRY, FRYE!

BZZZ

DON'T BREAK THE BEAN!

NOT IN HERE! WE GOT RULES!

WHOA. VINCK IS BRAVE...

VINCK'S NOT BRAVE. VINCK JUST NEEDS THIS JOB.

WHOA. GUTSY MOVE, DEKE...

PLEASE. MY GUTS HAVE ULCERS. BUT WE JUST REBUILT THE PLACE, AND I NEED THIS GIG.

DUDE. WE'RE TRYING TO *SET AN EXAMPLE* HERE...

...AND THAT BLOND *CATERPILLAR* ON YOUR *UPPER LIP* ISN'T HELPING.

OKAY, OKAY. SORRY. BUT LOOK...

...I BROUGHT SOMETHING OF MORE *PRACTICAL* USE THAN ALL US *SO-CALLED MENTORS* PUT TOGETHER...

...AN ADJUSTABLE *JUMPSUIT* MADE FROM *UNSTABLE MOLECULES.*

THAT WAY, WHEN YOU *TRANSFORM*, YOUR *CLOTHES* WON'T *BURN* UP OR *FALL* OFF YOU OR WHATEVER.

UM, THANKS?

ACTUALLY, *UH,* WHEN SHE'S TRANSFORMED...

...HER *CLOTHES* HAVE TRANSFORMED *WITH* HER.

THANK GOD.

"TRANSFORMED WITH HER"? REALLY?

HUH. SOUNDS LIKE *MAGIC.*

MAGIC.

DUH.

SO, YOU ARACHNIDS'LL BE *LOOKING* INTO *THAT...*

...BUT IN THE *MEANTIME,* LET'S *TRY* SOMETHING...

NOT TOO SHABBY, HUH?

NO, I MEAN, *YEAH!* FLYING KINDA *ROCKS!*

WOW. SHE REALLY *DOES* LOOK LIKE A *SUPER HERO* NOW...

...I WONDER IF US *GOOD GUYS* JUST SCORED A PRETTY *POWERFUL* NEW ALLY...

...AND I WONDER-- IF SHE *DOES* DECIDE TO BE A *HERO*-- WHAT SHE'LL *CALL* HERSELF...?

#10

Elementary, My Dear Spider-Men...

WEDNESDAY. NOW...

SORRY, LI'L SPIDEY, BUT AN ARACHNID FRIES TONIGHT!

CRACK

AND ORIGINAL-RECIPE SPIDER-MAN FRIES FIRST!

YOU DON'T MIND IF WE GET A ***SECOND OPINION*** ON THAT WHOLE "AN ARACHNID FRIES" THING?

I'D BE HAPPY--

OR A ***THIRD*** OPINION? SOMEONE MORE ***OBJECTIVE*** THAN OUR ***WOULD-BE*** SHORT-ORDER COOKS?

WILL-BE, SPIDEY, WILL-BE!

SIR, IT'S ***NOT SAFE*** HERE...

IS THIS WHAT I ***THINK*** IT IS?

TWO SPIDER-MEN FIGHTING ***TWO*** ELECTROS?

UH... YEAH.

AH. "WHAT ***IMMORTAL*** HAND OR EYE COULD FRAME SUCH ***FEARFUL SYMMETRY...***"

I'M ***PARAPHRASING,*** BUT YOU GET THE GIST.

KEEP YOUR GIST! LET'S GET THE HELL ***OUT OF HERE*** INSTEAD!

WHAT ARE YOU BOTH ***DOING*** HERE, ANYWAY?

HARDLY SEEMS AN ***EFFICIENT*** USE OF YOUR SPIDEROSITY!

OOH, "***SPIDEROSITY***"! I ***LIKE*** IT!

FOCUS!

SERIOUSLY. YOU TWO ***JOINED*** AT THE ***HIP*** NOW?

ONLY ON ***WEDNESDAYS...***

WEDNESDAY. THEN...

PETE! MILES!

JOINED AT THE HIP, AS USUAL...

LATTE ME, MY MAN!

SORRY, MY MAN. YOU'RE ***WAY*** EARLY TODAY. DON'T HAVE IT READY.

HERE YOU GO, MILES.

USE. THE. APP.

NO WORRIES. ONE MEDIUM ICED HALF-AND-HALF LATTE WITH A SHOT OF ESPRESSO AND A DASH OF CINNAMON COMING RIGHT UP!

THANK YOU, ***KING KONG.***

DUDE! RUDE!

OW.

NO, IT'S ***OKAY.*** THAT WAS MY ***NICKNAME*** BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.

SEE, I'M NOT ***ALWAYS*** POLITICALLY INCORRECT.

NO. NOT ALWAYS.

SO, WHY ***ARE*** YOU BOTH HERE SO ***EARLY?***

ACTUALLY, WE BOTH HAVE ***DATES.***

COFFEE DATES, COFFEE DATES!

COFFEE DATES DON'T COUNT AS ***REAL*** DATES, RIGHT?

YOU SHOULD KNOW...I'M NOT EXACTLY THE ***SALLY AVRIL*** YOU WENT TO ***HIGH SCHOOL*** WITH...

...I MEAN, I HAVE ***ALL*** HER ***MEMORIES.*** IT ***FEELS*** LIKE IT WAS ME. BUT I'M HER ***CLONE.*** I GUESS.

WE HAVEN'T REALLY ***TALKED*** IN A WHILE. HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

NOTHING! I MEAN, *uh*, FINE. I'VE BEEN ***FINE,*** KAMALA! WHY? ***WHAT*** HAVE YOU HEARD?!

'CUZ, *UM*... NOTHING.

I'M ***OKAY*** WITH THE CLONE THING. ***HONEST.***

THANKS. NOT MANY PEOPLE ARE. INCLUDING MY PARE--***HER PARENTS.***

FRANKLY, I'M NOT EVEN SURE ***I'M*** OKAY WITH IT. TRUTH IS, I'VE BEEN ***STRUGGLING.*** A LOT.

YOU'RE BEING ***WEIRD*** BECAUSE I ***DIED*** AND ***CAME BACK*** TO ***LIFE,*** AREN'T YOU?

I KNOW I'M NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BRING THAT UP--

NO, IT'S ***OKAY*** IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. I THINK I'D WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

YOU ***KNOW,*** ***HIGH-SCHOOL*** SALLY ***WASN'T*** ALWAYS ALL THAT ***NICE*** TO ***NERDY*** ME...

...SO FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I ***ALREADY*** LIKE ***COFFEE BEAN*** SALLY ***MORE.***

THAT'S A ***VERY STRANGE*** COMPLIMENT, BUT I'LL ***TAKE*** IT.

REALLY? 'CUZ EVERYONE GETS ***SO*** UNCOMFORTABLE ANYTIME I MENTION IT.

HAVING ***DEJÀ VU*** HERE, BUT LOOK...

...YOU CAN ***ALWAYS*** TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING. ***ANYTHING.***

SO...ARE YOU ***SEEING*** ANYONE?

YOU'RE STILL WITH STARL--*UH,* ***TIANA?***

I ***AM,*** ACTUALLY. HER NAME'S ***SHAY.*** IT'S ***EARLY DAYS*** STILL...

...BUT I HAVE TO-- ***WANT TO--*** GIVE IT A ***CHANCE.***

Uh...

YEAH.

BUT I'D REALLY LIKE FOR US TO BE ***FRIENDS.***

I'D LIKE THAT TOO. AND NOT THAT I'M NOT WISHING YOU AND THIS SHAY THE ***BEST...***

...BUT IF IT ***DOESN'T*** WORK OUT-- KEEP ME IN MIND, PETER PARKER.

IS DATING ***ALWAYS*** SO ***COMPLICATED?***

IF YOU FIGURE OUT A WAY TO ***SIMPLIFY,*** LET ME KNOW.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

PETER. MILES. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ***TREY*** AND ***KRYSTA,*** MY ***BOYFRIEND*** AND ***GIRLFRIEND.***

Y-YOU'RE A... ***THROUPLE?***

WE PREFER ***TRIAD.***

RIGHT, RIGHT. *Uh*... COOL.

DON'T EVEN ***THINK*** ABOUT IT.

I WASN'T!

YEAH, RIGHT.

NOW...

A LITTLE *INSULATED WEBBING...*

...SHOULD *WRAP* THIS BATTLE UP *SHOCKINGLY* QUICK!

THWIP

THWIP

INSULATED WEBBING IS *OLD NEWS,* BUG-BRAINS!

WE GOT A *WORK-AROUND* FOR THAT!

WE *KNOW,* SO...

...WE *WORKED AROUND* YOUR WORK-AROUND!

SWITCH?!

SWITCH!

ZAK

KZAP

YI-I-I-I-I-I!

ARGGGH!

NOW, WHILE THEY'RE *DOWN!*

I *THOUGHT* THIS WAS A *COMPETITION!*

WE'LL *WORRY* ABOUT THE SCORECARD *LATER!*

SPIDEYS-- JUMP!

WHO?

GLOOSH

KZZAK

AH-AH-AH-AH-AH--

AIEEEEEEEEE!

THEN...

HEY, JULIET. HEY, SHA SHAN!

PETER. MILES.

SHA SHAN IS TEACHING ME MEDITATION TECHNIQUES...

...THEY'VE REALLY HELPED ME CONTROL MY TRANSFORMATIONS!

WATCH! WATER!

POP

AIR!

POP

EARTH!

POP

HUMAN!

POP

I WON'T DO FIRE INSIDE BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO SET OFF THE SPRINKLERS... AGAIN.

THANK YOU.

I DECIDED I'M NOT GOING THE HERO ROUTE. IT'S JUST NOT...ME.

BUT I LIKE HAVING CONTROL BACK. AND NOW I CAN STAY HUMAN ALL THE TIME.

SHALL WE FORM OUR CIRCLE?

NOW...

AHUH-
AHUH-
AHUH--

=KOF-
KOF-
KOF--=

SPLOOSH

OKAY, GETTING *DOUSED* IS *NOT* FUN...

WASN'T *FUN* FOR ME EITHER...

CAUGHT US BY *SURPRISE*, OR IT *NEVER* WOULD'VE WORKED...

...'CUZ WATER'S *ANOTHER* WEAKNESS WE'VE LEARNED TO *OVERCOME.*

AND WE'RE ABOUT TO MAKE THINGS *HOT ENOUGH--*

--TO *EVAPORATE* YOU, NEWBIE!

POP

HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?

WOOSH

SHOOT

THEN...

--AND IT'S BEEN *GREAT* GETTING TO KNOW HER FOR REAL...

...I MEAN, *ANNA* IS JUST THIS AMAZING PERSON. AND THE FACT THAT SHE WANTS TO BE MY *FRIEND*--

BUT THAT'S JUST IT, JULIET. ANNA WANTS TO BE YOUR *FRIEND. NOT* YOUR *GIRLFRIEND.*

'CUZ SHE ALREADY *HAS* A GIRLFRIEND-- *RICKIE.*

WE'RE JUST CONCERNED YOU'RE *FALLING* FOR ANNA ALL OVER AGAIN.

AND WE DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU *HURT...AGAIN.*

ALL RIGHT, WE DON'T WANT JULIET TO FEEL LIKE WE'RE ALL *GANGING UP* ON HER.

NO, IT'S ALL *GOOD.* YOU GUYS ARE *SWEET* TO *WORRY,* BUT *NO ONE'S* GETTING HURT.

ANNA AND I ARE *JUST* FRIENDS.

EXCUSE ME...

...MY NAME IS *MIA DiMARIA,* AND, *um,* **DOCTOR STRANGE** SENT ME.

YOU'VE ALL READ **G.O.D.S.**, RIGHT? --MORTAL LOWE

NOW...

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS CHICK IS...

...BUT SHE WAS *NOT* PART OF THE GAME, SO--

YE-AAAAAH!

GRAA-AAH-AH-AHHH!

POP

GROUNDED!

SORRY. STILL WORKING ON MY *HERO BANTER*...

IT'S WORKING FOR ME...

PERFECTLY LEGIT QUIP...

THEN...

POP

--AND THEN THIS LAST ONE IS MY *FIRE* FORM. I MEAN, *DUH*, RIGHT?

WHEN EVALUATING *MAGIC*, IT'S BEST NOT TO ASSUME *ANYTHING* IS TOO *OBVIOUS*.

NOW *CHANGE* BACK TO HUMAN SO I CAN, *UH*, *CHECK* SOMETHING...

POP

I'VE GOTTA TAKE OFF. SEE YOU SOON...

OKAY, *JANE*. SEE YA.

SO...I'M KINDA IN THE *CROSS-HAIRS* BETWEEN *THE-POWERS-THAT-BE* AND *THE-NATURAL-ORDER-OF-THINGS*...

...IT'S STILL IRONING ITSELF OUT. BUT DOC STRANGE *ASKED* ME TO CHECK YOU OUT ANYWAY...

...THOUGH *I'M* STILL PRETTY *NEW* TO THIS STUFF MYSELF.

BUT *HOW* DID HE EVEN *KNOW* ABOUT ME?

I THINK HE HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM ONE OF THE *SPIDER-MEN*.

SPEAK OF THE *DEVIL*--

NO. WE *DON'T* DO THAT. *EVER*.

I THINK SHE MEANT *US*.

EVEN SO.

AND THAT'S MY *CUE*. BYE.

BYE, *CARLIE*.

SO, WHAT'S THE *VERDICT?*

WELL, JULIET IS KINDA LIKE ME--BORN WITH AN *AFFINITY* TO *MAGIC--*

--SPECIFICALLY, TO THE *FOUR* ANCIENT ALCHEMICAL *ELEMENTS...*

...WHICH YOU CAN *ACCESS* WITH LITTLE REGARD TO *MASS* OR *VOLUME. VERY* COOL, B.T.DUBS.

Uh... THANKS?

BUT WHY *NOW?*

I CAN ONLY *GUESS.*

JULIET MIGHT'VE GONE HER *WHOLE LIFE* WITHOUT *KNOWING ABOUT* OR *NOTICING* THIS AFFINITY--

--BUT HER *ARCADIUM TRAUMA* COMBINED WITH HER AWFUL *NOT-GIRLFRIEND* ENCOUNTER...

...TRIGGERED HER *LATENT* MAGICAL ABILITIES. NOW THERE'S *NO* GOING BACK TO *FULL NORMAL.*

OKAY, BUT... JUST *HOW WEIRD* DOES *MY LIFE* HAVE TO GET?

LISTEN, *EVERYONE*, WE HAVE TO *EVACUATE* THE AREA!

WHY? WHAT'S GOING ON?

STOLE MY LINE, BUT, YEAH, *TI--* I MEAN, OFFICER... ***WHAT?***

I DON'T HAVE ALL THE *DEETS...*

...BUT I'M TOLD A COUPLE OF THEM ***SUPER VILLAINS*** ARE ***ATTACKING*** NEARBY!

THIS IS *POINTLESS, MAX!* YOU CAN *SHOOT* ALL THE *JUICE* AT ME YOU WANT--

I KNOW, I KNOW. SAME HERE. WE GOT *NADA* WE CAN *HURT* EACH OTHER WITH...

...TO DECIDE WHO GETS TO KEEP *MY* NAME!

IS *THAT* WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?

CAN'T YOU TWO LEARN TO *SHARE?!*

YEAH, *WE* DO!

OOH, THIS GIVES ME AN *IDEA!*

ON THE BENEFITS OF *PEACEFUL* COEXISTENCE?

NO, NO, I *GET* IT! FIRST ONE TO *KILL* A *SPIDER-MAN* CLAIMS THE ELECTRO NAME!

EXACTLY!

UH-OH...

DOUBLE UH-OH.

I CALL THE LITTLE ONE!

I'VE LOST TO THE BIG ONE ENOUGH.

FINE WITH ME, SAP. THE LITTLE ONE'S GOT ALL THE EXTRA POWERS!

DANG IT!

WELL, WHATEVER...

SORRY, LI'L SPIDEY, BUT AN ARACHNID FRIES TONIGHT!

KZAK

AND ORIGINAL-RECIPE SPIDER-MAN FRIES FIRST!

KYAAAA

NOW...

OKAY, BRING THAT WALL *DOWN*, J.!

'CUZ WE ARE READY TO *RUMBLE!*

IF YOU SAY SO...

KRRRUMMBBBLLL

WELL, SHOOT...

POP

THEY'RE *GONE!*

YEAH, THE *BAD GUYS* DO THAT SOMETIMES. IT'S REALLY *ANNOYING.*

BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU REALLY CAME THROUGH FOR US.

ABOVE AND BEYOND. ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T *WANT* TO BE A *HERO*...

...*THANK YOU.*

WELL, YOU *BOTH* HELPED ME. I FELT LIKE I SHOULD HELP YOU TOO.

IT SEEMED *RIGHT*...AND WAS ACTUALLY KINDA *FUN.*

IT *CAN* BE FUN...BUT IT CAN BE *DANGEROUS* TOO. *VERY* DANGEROUS.

HEARTBREAKING, EVEN.

TOO LATE. HEART'S *ALREADY* BROKEN.

WHERE'D THE *MASK* COME FROM?

WELL, A *LOT* OF PEOPLE ALREADY *KNOW* ABOUT MY *POWERS*...

...BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE IT *TOO* EASY FOR ACTUAL *SUPER VILLAINS* TO TRACK ME DOWN.

SO MIA *CONJURED* THIS UP FOR ME...

...SHE PUT AN *ENCHANTMENT* ON IT TO STOP FOLKS FROM *RECOGNIZING* ME.

IT JUST WON'T WORK ON ANYONE WHO *ALREADY* KNOWS MY *IDENTITY*.

WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING THE SECRET-I.D. ROUTE--

--WHICH I *CANNOT* RECOMMEND MORE *STRONGLY*, BY THE WAY...

...THEN YOU'RE GONNA NEED A *NOM DE GUERRE*. A *CODENAME*. A *SUPER-HERO* NAME.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT TOO. CALL ME...

...ELEMENTARY!

WEDNESDAY. LATER...

--SO, YOU SEE, WE DECIDED TO *TEAM UP*...

...JUST UNTIL WE CAN FIND THE RIGHT *MOMENT* TO *FINISH* OUR LITTLE *COMPETITION.*

BUT FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO *SOLVE* A COUPLE OF PESKY *HERO* PROBLEMS...

...AND YOU ARE GONNA HELP US WITH THOSE--

--AREN'T YOU, *DOC?*

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